

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12602 01 OF 02 091528Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4313

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12602

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL FRG REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S
RESIGNATION

1. DEPUTY FRG SPOKESMAN, GRUENEWALD, MADE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT AT AUGUST 9 PRESS CONFERENCE: BEGIN TEXT
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMES THAT US INTERESTS IN THE
AREAS OF FOREIGN POLICY, ALLIANCE POLICY, AND ECONOMICS
ARE NOT ALTERED BY THE CHANGE IN THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT. GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
CHARACTERIZED BY A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, TRUST, AND
UNDERSTANDING. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO DOUBT THAT
THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE IN THE FUTURE. THE
PRINCIPLE OF CONTINUITY ALSO HOLDS TRUE FOR THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT TO TRANS-ALTANTIC RELATIONS AND
IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US. ON THIS OCCASION, WE NOTE
AGAIN WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THAT--NOT LEAST AS A RE-
SULT OF THE GOOD COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES--
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PAGE 02 BONN 12602 01 OF 02 091528Z

GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RECENT YEARS IN

STRENGTHENING THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, IMPROVING EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND, IN PARTICULAR, IN SECURING BERLIN. END TEXT.

2. ASKED WHY THERE HAD BEEN NO EXPRESS MENTION OF EUROPE IN THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION SPEECH, GRUENE-WALD SAID: "I DO NOT WANT TO EVALUATE THE FAREWELL SPEECH OF A DEPARTING AMERICAN PRESIDENT ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE SPEECH FOCUSED ON A PROCESS THAT HAS TO DO SPECIFICALLY WITH AMERICAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. TO BE SURE, YOUR QUESTION RELATES TO FOREIGN POLICY; WE ATTACH NO IMPORTANCE TO THE FACT ALLUDED IN YOUR QUESTION--THAT NATO WAS NOT MENTIONED--IN THE SENSE THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT HAVE DELIBERATELY LEFT IT OUT. THIS WE WOULD EXCLUDE WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY. WE SEE NO DISPARAGEMENT IN IT."

3. THE GERMAN PRESS AGENCY, DPA, CARRIED THE FOLLOWING REACTION REPORTS ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S RESIGNATION:
A. "A SPOKESMAN OF THE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FDP) SAID IN BONN THE FDP WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE CLOSE BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE IMPAIRED BY THE CHANGE IN THE WHITE HOUSE. THE FDP SEES IN THE TRUSTFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ACTING FDP CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE CHANCELLOR HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER, AND AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, HENRY KISSINGER, A GUARANTY FOR CONTINUITY OF GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS."

B. "THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION (CSU), FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS, EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO THE PARTING AMERICAN PRESIDENT FOR THE UNDERSTANDING AND ACTIVE SUPPORT HE HAD AT ALL TIMES RENDERED TO THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE. STRAUSS ADDED THAT IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GERMAN POLITICIANS TO GIVE AN ASSESSMENT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY."

C. "THE SPOKESMAN OF THE PARTY BOARD OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SPD), LOTHAR SCHWARTZ, EXPLAINED IN AN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 12602 01 OF 02 091528Z

INITIAL COMMENT: THIS IS A DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY THE CAUSES, COURSE AND RESULT OF WHICH ARE NOT FOR US TO ASSESS. WE ASSUME THAT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS POLICIES OF ALLIANCE AND DETENTE THAT ARE OF SUCH ELEMENTARY IMPORTANCE TO THE WESTERN WORLD AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM, WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE IN PRESIDENTS. THE SPD EXTENDS TO THE NEW PRESIDENT ITS BEST WISHES FOR CARRYING

OUT ONE OF THE MOST RESPONSIBLE OFFICES IN OUR WORLD."

D. "THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG FACTION OF THE
CDU/CSU, KARL CARSTENS, COMMENTING ON NIXON'S
RESIGNATION, SAID: RICHARD NIXON'S MOVE MARKS THE RE-
SIGNATION OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT WHO, DURING HIS
TENURE OF OFFICE, HAS SUCCESSFULLY ENDEAVORED TO FIND A
SOLUTION TO DIFFICULT WORLD POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND

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PAGE 01 BONN 12602 02 OF 02 091529Z

53

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12602

TENSIONS, ABOVE ALL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AS WELL AS IN THE
NEAR EAST AND IN BERLIN. THE MISTAKES IN THE FIELD OF
DOMESTIC POLICY THAT HE NOW ADMITTED AS HAVING BROUGHT
ABOUT HIS RESIGNATION SHOULD NOT MAKE US FORGET HIS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY. THE
CHANGE IN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FULLY RESTORES
THE CAPABILITY OF ACTION OF THE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN

THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY SECTORS. THE CDU/CSU HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW PRESIDENT, GERALD FORD, AND IN THE MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT."

E. "THE GOVERNING MAYOR OF BERLIN, KLAUS SCHUETZ, SAID: THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY SECTOR. THE SENATE OF BERLIN FEELS CERTAIN THAT (THE RESIGNATION) WILL NOT CHANGE THE CLEAR AND FIRM STAND OF THE UNITED STATES ON ALL ISSUES CONCERNING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 12602 02 OF 02 091529Z

BERLIN. NEITHER WILL IT CHANGE THE CONFIDENCE AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE BERLINERS AND THEIR AMERICAN PROTECTIVE POWER."

F. "IN THE OPINION OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD), THE UNITED STATES REMAINS FULLY CAPABLE OF FOREIGN POLICY ACTION DURING THE TRANSITION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER. THE FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN OF THE SPD FACTION, BRUNO FRIEDRICH, SAID ON FRIDAY IN THE PARTY'S NEWS SERVICE THAT INCOMING PRESIDENT GERALD FORD MAY ALSO COUNT ON THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF THE ALLIES. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC MAINTAINS GOOD AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FRIEDRICH UNDERLINED AND CERTAINLY ANTICIPATES CONTINUITY OF THESE RELATIONS UNDER THE INCOMING PRESIDENT IN BILATERAL AND ALLIANCE REALMS."

G. "THE CDU-CSU ASSUMES THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE TRUSTFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG, DECLARED CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL IN COMMENTING ON THE ENTRY INTO OFFICE OF THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT, GERALD FORD. KOHL DESCRIBED FORD AS A POLITICIAN WHO IN THE HIGHEST DEGREE PROVIDES A GUARANTY FOR AN ENERGETIC APPROACH TO US DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH EUROPE AND THE FRG. FORD HAD ANNOUNCED A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION. HIS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN POLITICS PROVIDED OUTSTANDING QUALIFICATIONS AND A DEPENDABLE BASIS FOR THIS, KOHL SAID. HILLENBRAND

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